

DNR Accessibility Advisory Council Mtg.

Monday, July 21, 2008

Okemos, Michigan

Advisory Council Present:

- ☒ Sophie Baker, SOM, Dept of Civil Rights
- ☒ Rick Briggs, Brain Injury Assoc of MI
- ☒ Cindy Burkhour, Access to Recreation Initiative
- ☐ Vendella Collins, SOM, Developmental Disabilities Council (MDCH)
- ☒ Daryl Domke, Universal Design Consultant
- ☐ Jeff Coupie, Michigan Sports Unlimited
- ☒ Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, MI Department of Veterans Affairs
- ☐ Rodney Haneline, Leader Dogs for the Blind
- ☐ Aaron Harris, Safari Club
- ☐ Roberta McCall, SOM, Michigan Commission for the Blind (DLEG)
- ☐ Roger McCarville, Disabilities Today
- ☐ Scott Norris, SOM, Library of Michigan
- ☐ Lucia Rios, Disability Network – Lakeshore
- ☐ Scott Severn, MI Paralyzed Veterans of America
- ☒ Bill Sheffer, MI Assn of Recreation Vehicles & Campgrounds
- ☒ Jim Trinklein, MI Assn of Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserves
- ☒ Mark Velthouse, Outdoors Without Limits
- ☒ John Witzke, MI United Conservation Clubs
- ☐ Duncan Wyeth, SOM, Commission on Disability Concerns (DLEG)

DNR Present:

- ☐ Bonnie Arthur, Communications
- ☒ Vicki Brown, Wildlife
- ☐ Jordan Byelich, Parks & Rec
- ☐ Brenda Curtis, Forest Mineral and Fire Management
- ☐ Monica Day, Grants
- ☒ Jerry Harris, Human Resources
- ☐ Julee Hasbany, Communications
- ☒ Linda Hegstrom, Grants
- ☒ Sharon Lawrence-Taylor, Legal Services
- ☒ Dan Lord, Parks & Rec
- ☐ Sharlene McConneghy, Law Enforcement
- ☒ Erica Moore, Fisheries
- ☒ Tami Pattison, Fisheries
- ☒ William Pemble, OLAF
- ☐ Peggy Ruby, Law Enforcement
- ☐ Donna Slater, Human Resources
- ☐ Paul Stoddard, OLAF
- ☒ Deb Stolecki, Forest Mineral and Fire Management
- ☐ Bruce Watkins, OLAF
- ☒ Ken Wright, Human Resources

Guests Present:

Terri Trinklein, MAGBHP
Nancy Bell, MUCC
Steve Solwold, Leader Dog for the Blind
Cheran Davis, DNR Human Resources

Meeting called to order by Mark Velthouse.

Changes to Agenda: None.

Minutes: Daryl moved to accept the minutes from the April 7, 2008 meeting. Bill seconded. Minutes approved.

New Member Announcement – Jerry Harris: Jerry introduced Mr. Daryl Domke, a newly appointed member to the AAC. Daryl gave an overview of his expectations of what he sees should come out of his involvement on the AAC – increased opportunities for residents of Michigan.

Hands On Day Review– Mark Velthouse/Jerry Harris: A lot of feedback has been positive, vendors want to know if we are doing it again, and when. Re-cap from everyone who was there. Discussion of doing more like it and expanding “Job Fair” concept. Set up something @ spring sportsmen shows like Hands On Day to be able to show/demonstrate equipment. Could be a project for the Council making visible to the general public/change perceptions.

Glad to see Director there, good to see leadership. Would like to see a letter from Council back to DNR. Chair & Co-Chair will work with General Fausone to draft a letter. Could have used Island Lake accessible shooting stations as demo using adaptive equipment – missed opportunity, use next time if we go there.

Want to get copies of Roger’s taping. Is great public relations. Trying to get a clip of it on the DNR internet site.

Some of the comments Jerry received: NRC Keith Charters was “blown away”. “Very positive”. Directors comment “Where are we going next?”. “Landmark”. “Eye-opening”. Very well taken. Went off well, everyone worked well together. Need to look at other opportunities, ie State Fair pocket park, trail openings, etc., take advantage of these in the future.

Love to go public with these. A whole other set of issues to consider. Jerry working on getting language on every press release that we’re committed to accessibility.

Need to find local groups who are having activities where we can partner with them.

Jerry has had only positive comments from everyone who attended. Probably need to set up sub-committee.

Cindy suggested adding an accessibility component to DNR sponsored events/activities ie, BOW, picking wildflowers.....have accessibility equipment available for these events, advertise this with the event.

General Fausone indicated we need a calendar of events to be ahead of the game to have a presence. Need to plan for next year. What about other fairs?

The Grand Rapids Veterans Home Carnival is this weekend in Grand Rapids. Great exposure for accessibility, need to plan for next year, need to do marketing. Should be looking at 2009.

Rick suggested that the Traumatic Brain Injury this September in Lansing should have a present.

Jim indicated that Adam Starr from Show Span is setting up trade shows right now, have different focuses each day, why couldn't we work to see if we could get a focus time for accessibility – should be contacting them now for next year.

Rick Briggs, General Fausone, Daryl Domke volunteered to serve on Event joint sub-committee for planning for events. Tami Pattison volunteered to represent the A-Team on the sub-committee.

Jerry offered small financial support but indicated it could dry up by October 1st.

Bonnie Arthur was identified as someone who should be on the sub-committee.

John mentioned that the MUSS director things outside the box. John could suggest to MUCC, tv show and magazine, really wants to see bigger partnership with DNR and accessibility issues.

Technology improved for accessibility, more opportunities, time is now to move forward, lots of money out there just need to know where to get it.

Meet the Department of Civil Rights & AAC Council Member – Sophie Baker: Sophie gave a power point presentation on the Dept of Civil Rights.

Open Business – Jerry Harris/Bill Pemble

- Policy development as a team: Policy regarding development policy, formalize with in the AAC, need to have a process, goal for Council to

set up and kick off development of a policy and then others will follow up, want to be more structured, more info will be forthcoming.

- **Supervised Hunt:** Can we close these issues? Apprentice licenses, 2 years, can't pass hunters safety, does AAC want to recommend that the Dept (DNR) look into the issue for further action? Decision on the issue – Anytime we can provide opportunities, we should be. Is it safe? Cindy made a motion and Rick/General Fausone seconded that the Dept should move forward and look at supervised hunt language. Language such as “Companion license only with a licensed hunter.” For those wishing to hunt that are persons with disabilities. Cindy/Bill will draft language for the AAC recommendation to the Dept.
- **Personal Assistive Mobility Devices:** Movement on the Federal level, are making progress on the local front.
- **Hunt from a Standing Vehicle:** Do we still need to keep this opened? The permit that exists may need some more work, will need to see how its applied, if PAMD is approved for use, may cover our concerns. Ok to closeout.

Camper Cabins Presentation – Dan Lord: Dan showed a power point presentation on camper cabins.

Related Web Links – Erica Moore: Updates for internet, reorganization, related links, Council members can bring vendor names to AAC meeting to be put on internet. A-Team will review and make decision to add or not. Accessibility training discussed being started again, open to all AAC members. Erica will send schedule to Council members.

Council Response Items:

Hands On Day survey – Bill Pemble: Bill hoped that all participants completed the survey. He will review, summarize, and distribute.

Respectful Communication training – Vicki Brown: TAT is going to do a brown bag lunch with Cindy Burkhour on respectful language on Sept 23. Employees who deal with the public will be required to attend.

Michigan Rehabilitation Conference – Tami Pattison: We've been approved to present, gathering information now from various divisions. Will put together a “template” for presentations for the future.

Additional hunting opportunities – Bill Pemble: Added veteran firearm with youth hunt on 9/27/2008.

Special disabled hunt extended from 2days to 4days October 16-19. Erica will send press release to council and post on internet.

Crossbow disability work group – Bill Pemble: Language has been accepted and moving forward. NRC will review proposal at their August meeting.

Reimbursement – Ken Wright: Council members were reminded to use the most current TEU form. DNR/Council sponsored events will be covered for reimbursement. Group meeting lunches has a \$10.25 maximum per person reimbursement and there are new mileage rates.

Department Actions Update – Jerry Harris: The Governor's adjusted work schedule program has been sent to all state departments. DNR is working on it internally and the plan will be released when completed.

DNR sent assistance to Saginaw to help with cleanup after the storm damage. Emergency response also sent a crew to Manistee.

Future AAC Meetings: September 15th, October 20th, December 8th.